

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 SP-02 USIA-06 AID-05 EB-07 NSC-05

CIEP-01 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01 L-03 H-02

CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03

LAB-04 SIL-01 PA-01 PRS-01 SAM-01 AGR-05 AGRE-00 /099 W
----- 130965

P R 060940Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4880

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY SANA 238

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABU DHABI 2401

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS : ETRD, TC

SUBJECT : ANTI-BOYCOTT ANTI-DISCRIMINATION LEGISLATION

REF: (A) STATE 216549, (B) KUWAIT 4193

1. CONSEQUENCES IN UAE OF PASSAGE OF HIRC AMENDMENT
(REF A) INCLUDING RELATIVE IMPACT OF VARIOUS SECTIONS

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WOULD IN EMBASSY'S VIEW BE MUCH ALONG LINES PROJECTED

REF B FOR KUWAIT. WITH LESS DIRECT INVOLVEMENT (I.E. SMALLER PALESTINIAN COMMUNITY) PRESSURES ON UAEG SOMEWHAT LESS, BUT IT TOO COULD NOT BE SEEN AS ABANDONING BOYCOTT. AS IN KUWAIT SPOTLIGHT ON CERTIFICATE OF ORIGIN COULD ONLY REDUCE INSTANCES OF QUIET EASING OF ENFORCEMENT.

2. RE IMPACT OF ADMINISTRATION OPPOSITION TO ANY NEW LEGISLATION ON REACTION HERE, WE BELIEVE THAT, IF LEGISLATION SUCH AS HIRC AMENDMENT ENACTED INTO LAW, DISTINCTION BETWEEN EXECUTIVE VERSUS LEGISLATIVE BRANCH POSITIONS WILL BE ALMOST TOTALLY LOST ON LOCAL AUDIENCE. THEY WILL BE LOOKING AT END RESULT AND IT IS THAT WHICH LIKELY SERIOUSLY DAMAGE US TRADE HERE. ON OTHER HAND WE WOULD NOT WISH ADMINISTRATION TO EASE ITS OPPOSITION IF IN WASHINGTON'S JUDGEMENT IT STILL POSSIBLE AVOID PASSAGE OF BOTH STEVSON AND HIRC PROPOSALS. WE SHARE EMBASSY KUWAIT'S VIEW THAT PASSAGE OF EITHER WILL HURT USG POSITION HERE AND WILL HAVE ADVERSE IMPACT ON TRADE.

3. TO DATE THERE HAS BEEN NO PRESS TREATMENT OR PUBLIC COMMENT ON HIRC PROPOSAL. PRESS HAS, HOWEVER, BEEN CARRYING ARTICLES ON USG ACTIONS/LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS RE BOYCOTT SINCE LAST WINTER. IT THUS JUST QUESTION OF TIME BEFORE LATEST MOVE RECEIVES FOCUS. WE WOULD NOT ANTICIPATE ANY OFFICIAL REACTION UNTIL, AND IF LEGISLATION ACTUALLY ADOPTED.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LAW, TRADE DISCRIMINATION, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, PUBLIC ATTITUDES, BOYCOTTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: SmithRJ
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976ABUDH02401
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760337-0345
From: ABU DHABI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760988/aaaacxnb.tel
Line Count: 90
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 216549, 76 KUWAIT 4193
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: SmithRJ
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 JUN 2004 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <05 OCT 2004 by SmithRJ>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ANTI-BOYCOTT ANTI-DISCRIMINATION LEGISLATION
TAGS: ETRD, TC, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006